

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [either of claims 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein hydroxyethyl methacrylate is employed as hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl (meth)acrylate.

4. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (A) are selected from the group of methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 or 4] claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (B) are selected from the group of C₃-C₂₄-vinyl esters.

6. (amended) A process for preparing water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 by free-radical polymerization in an aqueous or nonaqueous but water-miscible solvent or in mixed nonaqueous/aqueous solvents.

8. (amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or film-forming excipient.

9. (amended) The use of water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or [film/forming] film-forming excipient in pharmaceutical dosage forms.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better form for U.S. practice. Favorable action on the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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